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A  
CAVEAT  
TO  
Conventiclers:



BEING  
A Letter from an English Gentleman  
in STOCKHOLME,

TO  
A Person of quality in LONDON:  
RELATING  
The Manner of the DEVILS appearance  
in the Dutchy of FINLAND.



LONDON:  
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A Letter from an English Gentleman  
in *STOCKHOLME*,

TO

A Person of Quality in *LONDON*, &c.

Sir,

I Am not a little amazed to finde it pass without contradiction here, that the whole Dutchy of *Finland* is possesst by the Devil, and that he is now received and acknowledged by the people there, having made his publick entry upon the seventh of *March* last into the Town of *Strixbourg* (vulgarly called *Oulensfadt*) in this equipage. The Skie seem'd at first to darken in a horrid manner; and after an unheard-of Tempest of Thunder and Lightning, the Van-couriers appeared in number

about half a score, clad in a dusky Soot-colour'd  
 fort of Shamoy; their Shape and Figure was  
 much like those Pictures, which we see here up-  
 on Earth of the Devil. For it is supposed that he  
 sat to *Michael Angelo* when he drew the Landskip  
 of Hell; and all those Pictures that go about of him,  
 are but Copies of that Original that hangs in the  
*Vatican*. These were grim visaged, Sawcer-ey'd,  
 Broad-ear'd, Cloven-footed, Long-tail'd, Sharp-  
 teeth'd, and all over Hairy. As for their Stature,  
 we can give no certain standart of it, because  
 that as they approached towards the Town,  
 they seem'd to grow higher and higher; nay,  
 there are those that will depose upon oath that  
 some of them shot up to that prodigious height,  
 that their heads appear'd above the highest Chim-  
 nies; none of them but were above the ordina-  
 ry pitch of a man. It was observed, that one  
 of them struck the hat off the first man he  
 met, intimating (as 'tis supposed) that they  
 were all to be uncovered.

This dreadful appearance was followed by  
 another no less terrible, which was ushered  
 in by the winding of Hornes, whose sound was  
 so doleful and ominous, as would make any ones  
 heart fail: This musick was made by half a  
 dozen close Mourners, in bulk and stature far ex-  
 ceeding the former; Cloven-footed they also  
 were; but the exact shape of their body we  
 could not discern, because it was hid under their  
 long Cloaks: but still as they went along, they  
 nodded their heads at the people, as it were fore-  
 boding some evil to them.

But

But that which of all was most dismal, a Herald now appears in a party-coloured Coat with the Devils own Effigies pictured in it (and therefore we suppose he gives no other Arms.) This Herald, as soon as he came to the Gates of the Town, with a lowd and hollow voice denounced W<sup>o</sup> to the people, which struck no small terrour into them; nevertheless, their curiosity overcoming their fears, they were resolv'd to abide the issue of this Pomp, which seem'd rather a Funeral then a Triumph.

After this, was heard a confounded discord of winde-Musick, which seem'd to result from disagreeing Flajeolets, Flutes and Howboys; these were his Guards, a Troop consisting of about two hundred, all very well armed and mounted: some wore Rapiers, but the major part Scimiters; and therefore it may be very well imagin'd that they were slain Turks which the Devil had rais'd at the Siege of *Candia*: and to confirm the suspicion, some thought they wore Turbants: but of this we suspend our belief.

In the midst of this Troop rode the Devils Grace himself on a milk-white-Steed; he wore a very fair Periwig (as the mode is) and a plume of white Feathers, a fringed Crevat about his neck, his Sword drawn and brandisht in the Air. Those that observed the lines of his Face, say, that his presence was grave and majestick, but seem'd something in years: his stature did not much exceed that of ordinary men; his body somewhat full and corpulent; one of his Feet was cloven, and tipped with a horny substance like that of an Oxes hoof, the other was like the  
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huge Claw of a Bird armed with dreadful long Talons. He had great Sawcer-Eyes, and long Ears and Tail : some that had formerly seen him, say, that his visage then was nothing so horrible as it used to be at other times ; possibly he put on this pleasing guise, to win the people, and take off those frightful apprehensions which the Pulpits had raised of him.

The Fields were all covered with the Infantry , which by their Manners, Habit, and Dialect seem'd Wild *Irish* ; for they were great drinkers of Usquebaugh , wore long Trousers, and their Speech was much in the Throat : besides, those that conversed with them, say, that for ought they can understand by them, they were very superstitious, and easie of belief ; for they do in a manner acknowledge, that they were Spirited out of their Bogs and Woods, and transported hither with vain hopes of preferment : though some of them seem to talk oddly, as if they had dropt out of the Skie.

This was the manner and order of his approach to the Town ; where being arrived, he alighted, and went into an open Chariot that stood ready to receive him. He was no sooner seated, but he gave a lowd Hollow through the Air ; presently after which, the Heaven turned as black as pitch, as if his breath had over cast them : The people run into their Houses, barred up their Doors and Windows ; and there was such a general consternation, that the most daring Bully Rocks amongst them became speechless, few or none being so present to themselves, as  
to

to think of their Prayes; for they were indeed so stupified, that they lost the use of their senses. This horror having lasted above two hours, the Heavens began to clear again, the people to recover themselves and look abroad, where nothing appeared but a serene Skie; the Devil and all his Fiends vanished, and left no mark or signe of their being there.

This Relation we had from *Strixbourg* in *Finland*, which truly I gave but light credit to at first; but finding it confirmed by every Post from those parts, and having discoursed with several that were present, who did all agree in every circumstance of the story: I confess my curiosity was seduced so far as to consult a Conjuror in this affair; and it was my good fortune to light on one that held very good intelligence with the Devil. He told me that his last Advices from Hell gave him this Character of the person that invaded those parts. He pretended great sobriety and moderation in his outward carriage, but was in his heart a Murderer, Thief, Leacher, and indeed given over to all manner of vice and debauchery; and (which rendred his wickedness more dangerous) he was undoubtedly a great Scholar, having been adored by the School-men at *Athens*, when Learning most flourished in *Greece*; and to all those persons that resorted to him, he made so plausible a plea to justify all that he did, that he removed all scandal from them, and sent them away fully convinced and satisfied in the integrity of his Life and

and Manners; such is the power of his wit and dissimulation ! yet he seems to be contemplatively given, being for the most part in retirement, and not to be seen or spoken with, but at certain hours which he sets apart for business, in which his expedition is admirable ; for he is of so quick an apprehension, that when he sits in judgement, all matters brought before him, though never so perplexed, he reduces to a certain point, and dispatches immediately : for though he appeared in warlike equipage, he is rather a Gown-man than a Souldier ; yet of few words, for he never opens his mouth, but when 'tis much to the purpose : none ever observed him laugh or smile.

Then I asked him whether he might not be Antichrist : he said, No, for there appeared no marks of the Beast about him ; but guessed him rather to be one of the Silenced-Ministers of darkness, who judging by the multitude of Souls hourly transported to Hell, that there was a general Toleration of all things here upon Earth, came hither for Liberty of Conscience : but he findes himself as much deluded in his expectation, as those *NON-CONFORMISTS* are, who go to Hell for the same reason, it being indeed out of the Frying-pan into the fire ; for in the Swedish Dominion they allow but one way of Worship.

That he is a Phanatick no man questions, for he seldom fails to be present, and to exercise his gifts at Private Meetings. Having understood that there was a Conventicle held in a Barn near

*Frixhong,*



*Strixbourg*, at such time as he made his solemn appearance, he came into the House invisible, where he found indeed some half a score poor wretches, (frighted perhaps with the horrid face of things, and apprehension of the day of Judgement's approach) at an Exercise: one of them, little imagining him to be present, unadvisedly got into a Tub, to hold forth to the rest. Now whether he looked upon this as an usurpation of his Office, or whether the Doctrine held forth was repugnant to his Tenets, is a doubt worthy of the Brethrens *Q U E R I E S*. Certain it is, that he seized the poor mortal, and hurried him away in the Air, to the great affrightment of the whole Congregation; who being too well assured by the guilt of their Consciences, that the Delinquent was fallen into the hands of Justice, immediately dissolved the Meeting.

Policy is his Religion, and therefore it is believed he would turn Papist, if he might have been chosen Pope; but despairing to be promoted by a Christian or Catholick interest, and finding that the Queen of *Sweden* (whom he had reason to believe was his enemy) had a great influence over the *Squadron Volante*, where he placed his main hopes; he endeavoured to breed as much division in the Conclave, as might be; and therefore is believed to have put it into the Wench of *Rimini's*

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head, to pretend a Revelation in favour of Cardinal *Barbarin*; but though his designs took no effect, yet those that rightly understand things say, it is most certain, that had the *Squadron Volante* carry'd the Election, he had been Pope.

But failing here, he sets up for himself, and defies all Religion; Preaches nothing but Liberty and Atheism; which may be a probable reason, that he has a multitude of followers wheresoever he goes.

Some thought at first that his business here upon earth was, in the Devil's name, to take possession of the Dutchy of *Finland*, as an appurtenance of Hell, because it is a damnd Country, and not fit for any Christian, or indeed living soul to dwell in: but upon better reflection, they were convinced that that Dutchy could not belong to Hell, because the torments of the damn'd there proceed from cold, and not fire; though perhaps the Devil may have a just Title to some Mines of Sulphur and Arsnick lately discovered in those parts.

I confess this discourse of the Conjuror did much amaze me; and therefore to settle a right understanding in me of these things, I desired him to raise this Devil before me; which he courteously did, together with the whole

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whole procession of the Cavalcade, which I have caused to be cut in brass, and intend shortly to print, and publish for the satisfaction of the World. Sir, this is all from

*Stockholm, April 10.*  
1672

Your humble Servant

*J. P.*

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